

AMENDED SHEETS

Claims

1. An applicator engagement device useful for an applicator for a fluid to be applied from a container, said device having a support sized and dimensioned complementarily to the container to permit axial movement of said support within the container, said device having fluid applicator engaging means co-operating with said support, said device being characterised in that said device has a substantially central opening which is more than 50% of the total area of the device to permit a predominant portion of the applicator to come in direct contact with the fluid in the container and to permit a stirrer element to be inserted therethrough into the container for, in use, stirring the fluid in the container.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support is of a material selected to float on the fluid in the container.

3. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the support is a ring which is circular, oval, polygonal, square, rectangular, trapezoidal, or the like.

4. A device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the support is of larger cross sectional dimension than the axial length of the fluid applicator with which it is to be used, said support being adapted to float at or on the surface of the fluid with the fluid applicator engaging means at or just below the surface of the fluid.

5. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein, in the case of the fluid applicator being a roller, the support and fluid applicator engaging means are adapted so that the roller can be rolled over at least part of the fluid applicator engaging means to bring it in contact with the fluid in the container.

6. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fluid in the container is a coating composition, such as paint, and the roller picks up the paint onto its applicator surface by the action of rolling it over the fluid applicator engaging means and the fluid surface.

7. A device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the fluid applicator engaging means comprises spaced arms extending between the support and the opening.

8. A device as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7, including a centre piece defining the opening and connected to the support by the arms.

9. A device as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the arms are made of a flexible material, the length of the arms determining the freedom of movement of the centre piece relative to the support.

10. A device as claimed in any one of claims 7 to claim 9, wherein the arms are made of a resiliently deformable material.

11. A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the centre piece is biased by the resiliently deformable arms into the plane of the support, or to any other required plane which determines the depth of immersion of the fluid applicator engagement means in the fluid.

12. A device as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the centre piece comprises the stirrer element opening.

13. A device as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein the fluid applicator engaging means is in the form of projections provided on the arms and configured to engage the fluid applicator.

14. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the support is of inverted channel-shape section to assist it to float.

15. A device as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 14, wherein support and/or the arms and/or the centre piece have an axially directed lip or flange to increase the fluid drag of the device and to inhibit dunking thereof in the fluid.

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16. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the support is non-planar in cross section and adapted to include a fluid applicator engaging portion while being provided with a stirrer aperture configured to permit the fluid in the container to be stirred without removing the fluid dispenser from the container.

17. A device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the support is dimensioned to engage end zones of a roller fluid applicator and to bring said applicator into contact with the fluid in the container.

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18. A device as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 17, wherein the cross section is parabolic, hyperbolic, or the like.

19. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the device is provided with a perforated floor co-operable with the support, the floor being adapted to permit engagement with a fluid applicator while permitting a desired quantity of fluid to come into contact with the applicator.

20. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a logo or other information is provided thereon, such that when the dispenser is floating in a fluid the logo or other information is readable.

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Sub a⁴ 21. A container for a fluent coating composition, the container including a lid and an applicator engagement device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

5 22. A container as claimed in claim 21, wherein the device is integral with the lid, the lid being provided with removable zones configured such that when the removable zones are removed the remainder of the lid forms the device.

23. A container as claimed in claim 22, wherein the removable zones have
10 frangible borders to the remainder of the lid in order to facilitate removal thereof.

Sub a⁵ 24. A lid for a container, the lid being provided with removable zones configured such that when the removable zones are removed the remainder
15 of the lid forms a device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20.

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